

State of New York
Department of Correctional Services

Building Number 2
Harriman Office Campus
Albany, New York 12226

HUB SYSTEM:
Profile of Inmate Population
Under Custody on January 1, 2006



George E. Pataki
Governor



Glenn S. Goord
Commissioner

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THE RUB SYSTEM: PROFILE OF INMATE POPULATION UNDER CUSTODY ON JANUARY 1, 2006

Characteristics	Category	Total Under Custody	Range Across Hubs	
			LOW	High
Gender	Female	4.5%	0.0%	20.8%
Age	Average Age	36.2	31.4	39.3
Race/Ethnic Status	White	19.9%	11.1%	28.0%
	African-American	50.9%	47.7%	55.5%
	Hispanic	27.0%	22.1%	33.9%
Region	From New York City	55.3%	38.6%	76.5%
Birthplace	Foreign Born	11.3%	7.9%	16.4%
Marital Status	Never Married	65.0%	56.5%	75.5%
Living Children	One or more living children	59.2%	46.8%	64.2%
Religious Affiliation	Catholic	27.6%	21.2%	32.0%
	Protestant	30.3%	26.8%	34.1%
	Islam	13.8%	11.3%	17.5%
Veteran Status	Veteran	7.3%	4.7%	9.0%
Minimum Sentence	Average Minimum Sentence in months	106.2	52.8	154.7
Crime	Violent Felony	57.5%	41.3%	75.0%
Second Felony Offender Status	Second Felony	44.7%	34.3%	59.6%

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TEE HUB SYSTEM: PROFILE OF INMATE POPULATION UNDER CUSTODY ON JANUARY 1, 2006

Characteristics	Category	Total Under Custody	Range Across Hubs	
			Low	High
Prior Adult Criminal Record	Prior prison term	35.1%	26.9%	41.3%
Time Served at Current Facility	Median time served in months	8.0	6.3	12.0
Time Served in Department Custody	Median time served in months	25.8	17.1	74.2
Time to Earliest Release	Median time to release in months	16.8	11.9	30.0
Reading Level	Test results at 8th grade level or below for all inmates	34.4%	25.3%	39.5%
Academic Degree	Verified high school diploma or above	51.4%	45.9%	63.0%
English Language Fluency	English dominant	91.4%	88.3%	94.1%
Substance Abuse	Reported substance abuse (includes alcohol)	71.9%	64.8%	78.5%
Alcoholism	Alcoholic/Possibly alcoholic	39.6%	32.2%	48.3%

Section Three

PROGRAM RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS

Reading Proficiency

The Department's education program objective is to encourage every inmate to pass a high school equivalency General Education Diploma (GED) test while incarcerated. Testing and education programming are used by the Department to track the academic level of inmates in reading and mathematics. In order to take the GED examination, the Department requires inmates to take tests demonstrating at least a ninth grade level in reading and mathematics. Directive 4804 detailing Departmental educational policy was revised on April 28, 2003. It increased the reading level requirements for the GED exam from 8th grade to 9th grade. This directive requires most inmates to be placed in educational programming until reading levels are tested at the 9th grade level. Effective January 1, 2005, a policy statement was issued by Deputy Commissioner John H. Nuttall mandating GED preparation for all inmates.

For this report, data on reading proficiency and academic degree status were taken from a data file compiled on January 14, 2006. The number of cases on these educational tables (N=62,731) is almost the same as for earlier tables (e.g. 62,732 in Table 1). The data are presented for total inmates for all examinations (Table 17A), English language examinations (Table 17B) and Spanish language examinations (Table 17C). Inmates with reading levels in the 0 - 5th grade range require adult basic education (ABE) courses. Inmates in the 6 - 8th grade range require course work to improve their test scores before being eligible for the GED examinations. Inmates in the 9 - 12th grade category are eligible to take the GED examinations, so their course work helps them prepare for the GED exam. Inmates must score ninth grade level or above in both reading and math before being eligible to take the GED exam.

Table 17A shows the reading level test results for all inmates. Of the 62,731 inmates under custody on January 14, 2006, 32,215 (51.4%) had a verified GED, high school diploma or higher degree, and 29,340 (46.7%) were without academic degrees. Not eligible to take a GED exam were 12,556 inmates (20.0%) whose reading ability was below the sixth grade level, and an additional 9,062 inmates (14.4%) whose reading ability was between the 6th grade and 8th grade level. These inmates require additional services in order to qualify to take a GED exam.

The percent of inmates in each Hub whose reading ability level was eighth grade or below is presented in Figure 17. Sullivan Hub had the lowest percent of inmates reading below the ninth grade level (25.3%). Watertown Hub had the highest percent of inmates reading below the ninth grade level (39.5%).

Table 17B shows the reading level test results for inmates taking English reading tests. This group of inmates was comprised of those with their highest test score on the English reading test, those with no preference for Spanish or other languages and no language preference recorded. Of these inmates, 31,032 (533%) had a verified GED, high school diploma, or higher degree. Of the remaining 27,237 inmates, 7,222 can read at the ninth grade level or above and are eligible to take a GED examination. There were 18,898 inmates reading below the ninth grade level and required to take additional education courses to be eligible for the GED examination. English reading level results ranged from 23.6% reading below ninth grade level at the Sullivan Hub to 36.1% at the Great Meadow Hub.

Table 17C shows the reading level for the Spanish language dominant inmates under custody on January 14, 2006. Of the 4,462 Spanish language dominant inmates, 1,183 (26.5%) had a verified diploma from a high school or a degree beyond the high school level. Of the remaining 3,279 inmates, 500 could read in Spanish at a ninth grade level or above, and according to Departmental policy, were eligible to take a Spanish language GED test. Table 17C shows that there were 2,720 Spanish dominant inmates who read below the ninth grade level and were required additional education services to qualify to take a GED exam. Spanish reading level results ranged from 42.8% reading below the ninth grade level at the Sullivan Hub to 70.0% in the Watertown Hub.

Figure 17
Reading Level: 8th Grade or Below.

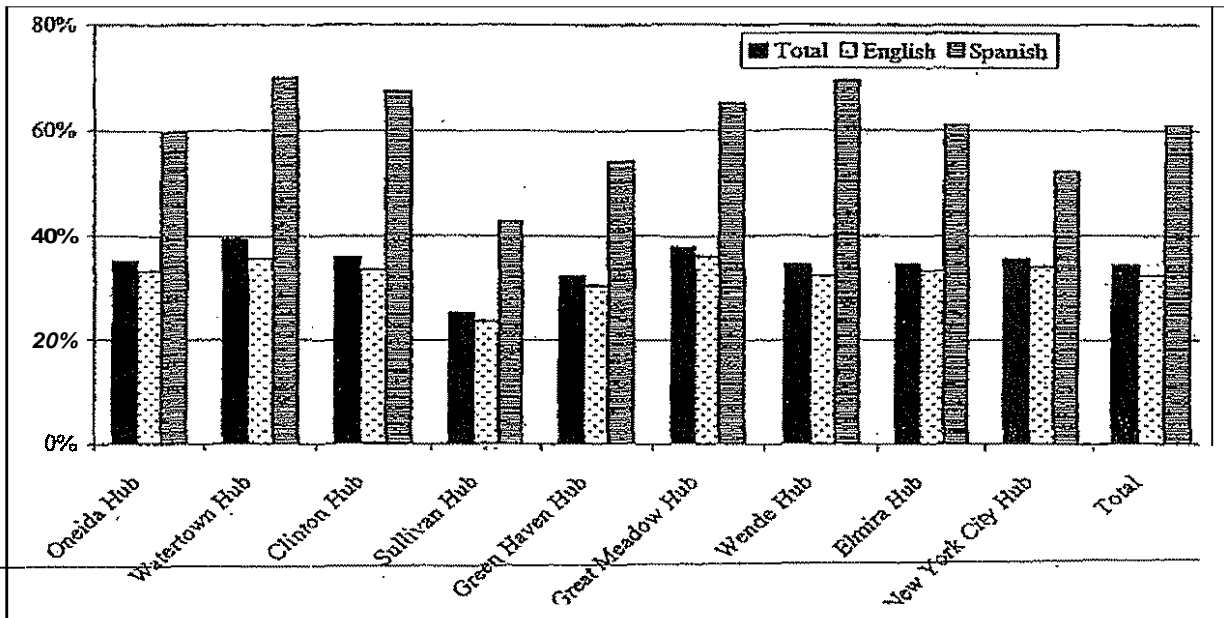


Table 17A. Reading Level and Diploma Status, by Hub and Facility;
Under Custody Population January 14, 2006

HUB	FACILITY	0 - 5TH GRADE	6TH - 8TH	9TH - 12	MISSING TEST DATA	VERIFIED HS DIPLOMA OR DEGREE	TOTAL
ONEIDA HUB (1)	CAMP GEORGETOWN	36	26	22	0	75	161
	CAMP PHARSALIA	33	21	23	0	63	142
	HALE CREEK ASACTC	67	60	29	4	229	389
	MARCY	270	201	164	9	615	1,259
	MID-STATE	315	215	189	16	794	1,529
	MOHAWK	315	208	193	25	668	1,409
	ONEIDA	201	168	103	8	709	1,189
	SUMMIT SHOCK	19	27	29	2	48	123
	SUMMIT GENERAL	9	7	7	1	19	45
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,265	939	759	65	3,220	6,248
		20.2%	15.0%	12.1%	1.0%	51.5%	100.0%
WATERTOWN HUB (2)	CAPE VINCENT	187	136	110	0	434	867
	GOVERNMENT	241	183	173	3	470	1,030
	OGDENSBURG	142	92	72	6	291	603
	RIVERVIEW	181	148	107	8	434	879
	WATERTOWN	175	105	84	3	288	655
	HUB SUBTOTAL	926	665	568	20	1,917	4,034
		23.0%	16.5%	12.5%	0.5%	47.5%	100.0%
CLINTON HUB (3)	ADIRONDACK	126	86	82	12	255	561
	ALTONA	111	74	41	4	241	471
	BAKE HILL	370	265	212	6	871	1,724
	CAMP GABRIELS	31	24	19	0	82	156
	CHATEAUGAY ASACTC	38	37	22	0	120	217
	CLINTON	589	400	265	42	1,599	2,895
	FRANKLIN	333	272	168	23	923	1,721
	LYON MOUNTAIN	29	20	13	0	73	135
	UTSTATE	236	201	143	18	539	1,139
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,865	1,379	965	107	4,703	9,019
		20.7%	15.3%	10.7%	1.2%	52.1%	100.0%
SULLIVAN HUB (4)	EASTERN	175	113	109	6	785	1,188
	MID-ORANGE	105	59	45	7	512	728
	OTISVILLE	89	59	41	4	404	597
	SHAWANGUNK	65	39	51	4	386	545
	SULLIVAN	169	52	30	19	425	740
	ULSTER	160	105	113	98	230	708
	WALLKILL	71	54	36	1	441	603
	WOODBORNE	121	54	76	3	331	786
	HUB SUBTOTAL	956	535	351	139	3,714	5,895
		16.2%	9.1%	9.3%	2.4%	63.0%	100.0%
GREEN HAVEN HUB (5)	BEACON FEMALE	37	40	31	24	90	222
	BEDFORD HILLS	142	105	104	100	343	794
	DOWNSTATE	314	188	164	161	406	1,233
	FISHKILL	303	187	178	15	1,048	1,731
	GREEN HAVEN	387	240	285	42	1,202	2,158
	TACONIC	82	64	47	3	114	315
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,265	824	811	350	3,201	6,453
		19.6%	12.8%	12.6%	5.4%	49.6%	100.0%
GREAT MEADOW HUB (6)	CAMP MCGREGOR	36	22	15	1	52	126
	COXSACKIE	200	177	115	17	535	1,044
	GREAT MEADOW	352	254	235	39	797	1,677
	GREENE	407	339	316	13	690	1,765
	HUDSON	78	49	55	4	268	454
	HUDSON WR & IND TR	9	11	4	0	13	37
	MORIAH SHOCK	41	48	86	1	16	192
	MT MCGREGOR	102	69	41	0	315	527
	WASHINGTON	228	189	175	4	463	1,059
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,453	1,158	1,042	79	3,109	6,901
		21.1%	16.8%	15.1%	1.1%	45.9%	100.0%
WENDE HUB (7)	ALBION FEMALE	245	217	133	66	442	1,123
	ALBION WORK REL	4	6	5	1	26	42
	ATTICA	421	284	13	51	1,183	2,201
	BUFFALO WORK REL	9	11	13	0	72	105
	COLLINS	245	133	122	11	635	1,146
	GOWANDA	321	223	184	18	943	1,722
	GROVELAND	155	164	126	15	751	1,211
	LAKEVIEW-MALE	287	205	212	14	224	942
	LAKEVIEW-FEMALE	8	15	30	13	36	92
	LIVINGSTON	147	121	85	6	511	870
	ORLEANS	206	151	116	9	516	998
	ROCHESTER	7	5	2	0	36	50
	WENDE	210	141	121	53	414	939
	WYOMING	337	255	193	14	914	1,713
	HUB SUBTOTAL	2,602	1,931	1,604	264	6,753	13,154
		19.8%	14.7%	12.2%	2.0%	51.3%	100.0%
ELMIRA HUB (8)	ALBURN	365	247	213	24	927	1,776
	BUTLER	22	38	22	0	109	183
	BUTLER MINIMUM	13	17	21	0	106	158
	CAYUGA	172	137	140	3	579	1,031
	ELMIRA	365	296	272	41	806	1,780
	FIVE POINTS	275	209	185	19	687	1,375
	MONTEREY SHOCK	33	35	92	1	16	175
	SOUTHPORT	165	144	120	16	364	813
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,410	1,113	1,065	105	3,598	7,291
		19.3%	15.3%	14.6%	1.4%	49.3%	100.0%
NEW YORK CITY HUB (9)	ARTHURKILL	177	97	107	9	545	935
	BAYVIEW	25	19	25	5	71	145
	BAYVIEW WORK REL	22	13	10	0	22	67
	EDGEcombe	54	33	23	2	76	188
	FULTON	36	19	16	0	28	99
	LINCOLN	20	13	21	2	94	150
	QUEENSBORO GEN	97	73	51	1	189	411
	SING SING	383	251	166	28	913	1,741
	HUB SUBTOTAL	814	518	419	47	1,934	3,736
		21.80%	13.90%	11.20%	1.30%	51.90%	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL		12,556	9,062	7,722	1,376	32,215	62,731
		20.0%	14.4%	12.3%	1.9%	51.4%	100.0%

ONLY VERIFIED DATA ON EDUCATION REPORTED

Table 17B. Reading Level and Diploma Status, by Hub and Facility;
English Language Dominant; Under Custody Population January 14, 2006

HUB	FACILITY	0 - 5TH GRADE	6TH - 8TH	9TH - 12	MISSING TEST DATA	VERIFIED HS DIPLOMA OR DEGREE	TOTAL
ONEIDA HUB (1)	CAMP GEORGETOWN	32	28	20	0	73	153
	CAMP PHARSALIA	32	22	20	0	62	134
	HALE CREEK ASACTC	56	36	24	4	226	368
	MARCY	219	171	144	8	591	1,133
	MID-STATE	272	198	158	14	770	1,422
	MOHAWK	248	184	171	22	639	1,264
	ONEIDA	183	163	102	7	687	1,142
	SUMMIT SHOCK	19	26	27	2	48	122
	SUMMIT GENERAL	8	6	7	1	19	41
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,071	854	683	58	3,115	5,781
		18.5%	14.8%	11.8%	1.0%	53.9%	100.0%
WATERTOWN HUB (2)	CAPE VINCENT	138	123	97	0	423	781
	GOUVERNEUR	190	156	118	3	455	922
	OGDENSBURG	107	79	59	6	278	529
	RIVERVIEW	142	127	98	5	423	793
	WATERTOWN	121	94	71	1	273	560
	HUB SUBTOTAL	658	579	443	15	1,850	3,585
		19.5%	16.2%	12.4%	0.4%	51.6%	100.0%
CLINTON HUB (3)	ADIRONDACK	104	79	78	9	250	520
	ALTONA	94	68	38	4	235	439
	BARE HILL	302	237	208	5	822	1,574
	CAMP GABRIELS	27	23	18	0	82	150
	CHATEAUGAY ASACTC	37	35	32	0	119	213
	CLINTON	493	359	256	42	1,553	2,703
	FRANKLIN	271	234	151	22	890	1,568
	LYON MOUNTAIN	25	18	12	0	71	126
	UPSTATE	207	183	137	17	521	1,070
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,560	1,241	920	99	4,543	8,363
		18.7%	14.8%	11.0%	1.2%	54.3%	100.0%
SULLIVAN HUB (4)	EASTERN	139	97	91	6	743	1,076
	MID-ORANGE	75	48	43	7	464	637
	OTISVILLE	73	46	31	4	358	512
	SHAWANGUNK	54	34	47	3	362	500
	SULLIVAN	152	50	76	18	396	692
	ULSTER	128	100	101	97	231	653
	WALLKILL	70	49	32	1	426	578
	WOODBORNE	99	45	69	2	489	704
	HUB SUBTOTAL	790	469	490	134	3,469	5,352
		14.8%	8.3%	9.2%	2.5%	64.8%	100.0%
GREEN HAVEN HUB (5)	BEACON FEMALE	37	40	31	24	90	222
	BEDFORD HILLS	138	99	104	99	338	778
	DOWNSTATE	258	172	159	155	394	1,138
	FISHKILL	245	162	150	15	977	1,549
	GREEN HAVEN	305	215	263	39	1,125	1,947
	TACONIC	79	61	45	8	312	305
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,062	749	752	340	3,036	5,939
		17.9%	12.6%	12.7%	5.7%	51.1%	100.0%
GREAT MEADOW HUB (6)	CAMP MCGREGOR	31	22	13	1	51	118
	COXSACKIE	384	154	107	16	520	941
	GREAT MEADOW	310	236	224	37	765	1,572
	GREENE	341	313	289	10	676	1,639
	HUDSON	71	48	53	4	264	442
	HUDSON WR & IND TR	9	11	4	0	33	57
	MORIAH SHOCK	39	48	65	1	16	189
	MT MCGREGOR	77	62	35	0	301	475
	WASHINGTON	204	181	170	3	459	1,017
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,768	1,025	890	72	3,088	6,490
		19.5%	16.6%	15.3%	1.1%	47.5%	100.0%
WENDE HUB (7)	ALBION FEMALE	223	207	132	66	459	1,087
	ALBION WORK REL	4	6	4	1	26	41
	ATTICA	375	275	257	46	1,156	2,109
	BUFFALO WORK REL	6	10	13	0	77	101
	COLLINS	198	123	116	11	622	1,070
	COWANDA	255	205	169	9	962	1,600
	GROVELAND	136	150	117	14	744	1,161
	LAKEVIEW-MALE	227	192	199	11	222	851
	LAKESIDE-FEMALE	8	15	30	13	26	92
	LIVINGSTON	127	105	79	6	496	813
	ORLEANS	177	134	113	8	499	933
	ROCHESTER	6	4	2	0	35	47
	WENDE	191	132	120	52	394	889
	WYOMING	282	214	176	13	595	1,284
	HUB SUBTOTAL	2,215	1,780	1,527	250	6,608	12,380
		17.5%	14.4%	12.3%	2.0%	53.4%	100.0%
ELMIRA HUB (8)	ALBURN	337	229	202	23	899	1,684
	BUTLER	19	28	21	0	108	176
	BUTLER MINIMUM	10	17	20	1	104	152
	CAYUGA	147	127	131	2	570	977
	ELMIRA	377	290	266	41	790	1,714
	FIVE POINTS	253	200	179	18	672	1,322
	MONTEREY SHOCK	30	30	92	1	16	169
	SOUTHPORT	150	135	116	16	353	770
	HUB SUBTOTAL	1,267	1,056	1,027	102	3,512	6,964
		18.2%	15.2%	14.7%	1.5%	50.4%	100.0%
NEW YORK CITY HUB (9)	ARTHURKILL	141	87	99	9	501	837
	BAVVIEW	25	19	25	5	70	144
	BAVVIEW WORK REL	22	13	9	0	22	66
	EDGEcombe	40	29	20	2	74	165
	FULTON	26	15	14	0	25	80
	LINCOLN	28	13	18	2	93	146
	QUEENSBORO GEN	86	68	51	7	184	390
	SING SING	330	230	154	28	845	1,587
	HUB SUBTOTAL	690	474	390	47	1,814	3,415
		20.2%	13.9%	11.4%	1.4%	53.1%	100.0%
GRAND TOTAL		10,623	8,277	7,222	1,117	31,032	58,269
		18.2%	14.2%	12.4%	1.9%	53.3%	100.0%

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Table 17C. Reading Level and Diploma Status, by Hub and Facility;
Spanish Language Dominant; Under Custody Population January 14, 2006

HUB	FACILITY	0 - 5TH GRADE	6TH - 8TH	9TH - 12	MISSING TEST DATA	VERIFIED HS DIPLOMA OR DEGREE	TOTAL
ONEIDA HUB (1)	CAMP GEORGETOWN	4	0	2	0	2	8
	CAMP PHARSALIA	1	1	3	0	1	6
	HALE CREEK ASACTC	9	4	5	0	3	21
	MARCY	51	30	20	1	24	126
	MID-STATE	43	17	21	2	24	107
	MOHAWK	67	24	22	3	29	145
	ONEIDA	18	5	1	1	22	47
	SUMMIT SHOCK	0	1	7	0	0	8
	SUMMIT GENERAL	1	3	0	0	0	4
	HUB SUBTOTAL	194	85	76	7	105	467
		41.5%	42.2%	16.3%	1.5%	22.5%	100.0%
WATERTOWN HUB (2)	CAPE VINCENT	49	13	13	0	11	86
	GOUVERNEUR	51	27	15	0	15	108
	OGDENSBURG	35	13	13	0	13	74
	RIVERVIEW	39	22	9	3	13	86
	WATERTOWN	54	11	13	2	13	93
	HUB SUBTOTAL	228	86	63	5	67	449
		50.8%	19.2%	14.0%	1.1%	14.9%	100.0%
CLINTON HUB (3)	ADIRONDACK	22	7	4	3	5	41
	ALTONA	17	6	3	0	6	32
	BARRE HILL	68	28	4	1	49	150
	CAMP GABRIELS	4	1	1	0	0	6
	CHATEAUGAY ASACTC	1	2	0	0	1	4
	CLINTON	96	41	9	0	46	192
	FRANKLIN	82	38	17	3	33	153
	LYON MOUNTAIN	4	2	1	0	3	9
	UPSTATE	31	13	6	1	18	69
	HUB SUBTOTAL	365	138	45	8	160	656
		46.5%	21.0%	6.9%	1.2%	24.4%	100.0%
SULLIVAN HUB (4)	EASTERN	36	16	18	0	42	112
	MID-ORANGE	30	11	2	0	48	91
	OTISVILLE	16	13	10	0	46	85
	SHAWANGUNK	11	5	4	1	24	45
	SULLIVAN	17	2	4	1	24	48
	ULSTER	32	5	12	2	4	55
	WALLKILL	1	5	4	0	15	25
	WOODBORNE	23	9	7	1	42	82
	HUB SUBTOTAL	166	66	61	5	243	543
		30.6%	12.2%	11.2%	0.9%	45.1%	100.0%
GREEN HAVEN HUB (5)	BEDFORD HILLS	4	6	0	1	5	16
	DOWNSTATE	56	16	5	6	12	95
	FISHKILL	38	25	28	0	71	182
	GREEN HAVEN	82	25	24	3	77	211
	TACONIC	3	3	2	0	2	10
	HUB SUBTOTAL	203	75	59	10	167	514
		39.5%	14.6%	11.5%	1.9%	32.5%	100.0%
GREAT MEADOW HUB (6)	CAMP MCGREGOR	5	0	2	0	1	8
	COXSACKIE	16	23	4	1	15	63
	GREAT MEADOW	42	18	11	2	32	105
	GRESHNE	66	26	17	3	14	126
	HUDSON	5	1	2	0	0	12
	MORIAH SHOCK	2	0	1	0	0	3
	MT MCGREGOR	25	7	6	0	14	52
	WASHINGTON	24	8	5	1	4	42
	HUB SUBTOTAL	185	83	52	7	84	411
		45.0%	20.2%	12.7%	1.7%	20.4%	100.0%
WENDE HUB (7)	ALBION FEMALE	22	10	1	0	3	36
	ALBION WORK REL	0	0	1	0	0	1
	ATTICA	46	9	5	5	27	92
	BUFFALO WORK REL	3	1	0	0	0	4
	COLLINS	47	10	6	0	13	76
	GOWANDA	66	18	15	2	21	122
	GROVELAND	19	14	9	3	7	50
	LAKEVIEW-MALE	60	13	13	1	2	91
	LIVINGSTON	20	16	6	0	15	57
	ORLEANS	29	13	3	1	17	63
	ROCHESTER	1	1	0	0	1	3
	WENDE	19	9	1	1	20	50
	WYOMING	55	37	17	1	19	129
	HUB SUBTOTAL	387	151	77	14	145	774
		50.0%	19.5%	9.9%	1.8%	18.7%	100.0%
ELMIRA HUB (8)	AUBURN	34	18	11	1	28	92
	BUTLER	3	2	1	0	1	7
	BUTLER MINIMUM	3	0	1	0	2	6
	CAYUGA	25	10	9	1	9	54
	ELMIRA	38	6	6	0	16	66
	FIVE POINTS	22	3	6	1	15	53
	MONTEREY SHOCK	3	0	0	0	0	3
	SOUTHPORT	15	9	0	0	15	39
	HUB SUBTOTAL	143	57	38	3	86	327
		43.7%	17.4%	11.6%	0.9%	26.3%	100.0%
NEW YORK CITY HUB (9)	ARTHURKILL	36	10	1	0	44	91
	BAYVIEW	0	0	0	0	1	1
	BAYVIEW WORK REL	0	0	1	0	0	1
	EDGEcombe	14	4	3	0	2	23
	FULTON	10	4	2	0	1	17
	LINCOLN	0	0	3	0	1	4
	QUEENSBORO GEN	11	5	0	0	5	21
	SING SING	53	21	12	0	68	154
	HUB SUBTOTAL	124	44	29	0	124	321
		38.6%	13.7%	9.0%	0.0%	38.6%	100.0%
GRAND TOTAL		1,935	785	500	59	1,183	4,462
		43.4%	17.6%	11.2%	1.3%	26.5%	100.0%

ONLY VERIFIED DATA ON EDUCATION REPORTED

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Issues in Brief

STATE SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONS PROGRAM

The Front Line: Building Programs that Recognize Families' Role in Reentry

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MORE THAN 600,000 men and women will have prison in 2004. In making the transition back to the community, many will turn to their families—spouses, parents, siblings, grandparents, and others—for some kind of assistance. These family members become the “front line” of reentry, providing former inmates with critical material and emotional support including shelter, food clothing, leads for jobs, and guidance in staying sober or avoiding criminal behavior. This is no mystery: families typically are more personally invested in and affected by positive outcomes for men and women coming home than are criminal justice practitioners or those in the helping professions. Some 30 years of research from other fields suggests that family support can help make or break a successful transition from prison to community. But in practice, criminal justice systems have only recently tried to harness the family’s investment by engaging them in the transition. Such engagement has been encouraged by the fatherhood movement of the 1990s, which increased both parental programming for men in prison and child support orders when they leave. Even more recently, a national focus on the issue of reentry, the term used to describe the transition from prison back to the community, has put the role of families in the spotlight.

Spurred by federal funding directed at reentry, more and more jurisdictions are experimenting with family-focused programming for adults leaving prison. While we know from the research that some families succeed in providing the necessary support on their own, we are still learning both how they do it and how to design programs to coach and support families who cannot do it all on their own.

In this paper, we examine the trend towards providing family-focused reentry programming in prison and in the community, highlight ways that jurisdictions can structure such efforts, and address the challenges involved.

Issues in Brief

This paper, part of Vera's *Issues in Brief* series, looks at Project Greenlight and other innovations across the nation to explore how family involvement in reentry may lead to more successful transitions from prison and better recidivism results. Greenlight is just one way that Vera has engaged with reentry issues. Two earlier publications have examined different facets of the reentry challenge: *Why Planning for Release Matters* and *Preventing Homelessness Among People Leaving Prison* are available at www.vera.org/ssc. The Safe Return Initiative, a federally created partnership between Vera and the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, helps recipients of federal Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative grants prevent and intervene in domestic violence as African-American men leave prison. For more information contact SRI's director, Lori Crowder, at 212-376-3044, lcrowder@vera.org, or visit www.safereturn.info. In addition, Vera's State Sentencing and Corrections Program continues to provide nonpartisan assistance to state officials on a range of sentencing and incarceration policy issues that often encompass reentry, such as community corrections and drug policy reforms.

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The Positive impact of Family Involvement

The hypothesis that family engagement can produce better outcomes at reentry is rooted in blind hope, but in lessons from other fields. For decades, researchers studying alcoholism and substance abuse noted the link between successful treatment and positive family support. A recent journal article summarized this research, which shows that social support from family and friends during drug treatment correlates to such positive outcomes as increased commitment to treatment, decreased arrest rates and drug usage, and fewer relapses after treatment.² These findings sparked such experimental programs as La Bodega de la Familia, developed by the Vera Institute of Justice in 1996.

La Bodega de la Familia focused on the family's role at the overlap of drug treatment and criminal justice. La Bodega, which has since become an independent nonprofit under Family

Justice, Inc., is a service in New York City's Lower East side for families in which one member is both on parole or probation and a substance abuser. In addition to providing advocacy and 24-hour crisis intervention services, La Bodega provides weekly family and individual counseling sessions under the guidance of a family case manager, who also works closely with the drug user's parole or probation officer.

An evaluation of La Bodega showed that although Bodega participants did not stay in drug treatment any longer than a comparison group, the proportion of participants who used illegal substances declined significantly—from 80 percent upon entry into the program to 42 percent six months later. In in-depth interviews, participants gave concrete examples of how their families helped them through difficult periods, minimizing relapse. They also reported striving to retain the good opinion of their families and feared losing that

support if they resumed using drugs.³

In the juvenile justice field, research going back a century has recognized the family's role in influencing delinquency. This research suggested that strengthening family functioning and encouraging familial involvement and monitoring of a delinquent youth's behavior should reduce delinquency and associated behaviors such as substance abuse.⁴ A generation of programming along these lines has proven that hypothesis: programs such as Family Functional Therapy and Multisystemic Therapy, among others, show marked reductions in recidivism compared to traditional treatment that focuses on the child alone.⁵

In an area analogous to adult reentry from prison, research shows that the positive adjustment of military servicemen and women returning from active duty (as measured by lower levels of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) is associated with perceiving that their families gave them a positive reception when they returned home.⁶ Because many factors can get in the way of such familial support—the different experiences of the service member and his family during deployment, the family's independence during this time, and fears about infidelity—the military has offered formal and informal programs for service members and their families (usually separately). These programs give both groups an opportunity to acknowledge and think through the adjustments that will be made upon a servicemember's return. They also provide assistance when the service members and/or their family members experience distress after the return.⁷

There is, too, some evidence of the positive impact of families for adults returning from prison. Research conducted in the 1970s and 80s found modest differences in recidivism rates between inmates who had

significant contact with people from outside prison during their incarceration and those who had less or no contact. In one study, the greater number of visits inmates had, the lower their recidivism rate. In another study, inmates' participation in a private family visiting program during in-prison was associated with low recidivism rates. None of the studies identified why family ties during imprisonment seemed to make a difference in recidivism?

More recently, Vera staff conducted a study that tracked 49 men and women for one month after release from New York State prisons and New York City jails. Within two days after release, 40 of the 49 people were living with a relative, spouse, or partner. People whose families scored high on standardized measures of family strength had greater success—defined as having a job, avoiding illegal activity and drug use, making new friends, and securing stable housing—than people whose families did not score as well. But the strongest predictor of individual success was the perception by the person released that his family supported him.⁹

While this evidence pointed to positive family support as a factor in lowering recidivism for adults leaving prison, research has revealed little about why that support worked and even less about how to help foster it. The findings, together with a national focus on how to reintegrate people leaving prison and jail back into their home communities, have sparked the creation of family-focused reentry programs in order to discover, through experimentation, what works. Vera's Project Greenlight is one such effort.

Project Greenlight

In 2002, Vera, in partnership with the New York State Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) and the

Division of Parole, included family-focused services in a prison-based reentry pilot program called Project Greenlight. Greenlight participants were adult males, incarcerated for a variety of offenses (some for serious and violent crimes), who were transferred to a prison in New York City, the Queensboro Correctional Facility, two months before their release. Vera staff trained Parole's institutional officers and DOCS counselors to be reentry case managers who helped the men prepare individual plans to use as a guide on parole after release. Participants also attended mandatory workshops on job readiness, practical skills, and cognitive-behavioral tools. Participants could also receive services from an on-site job developer, a family counselor, and a community coordinator whose responsibilities included housing assistance.

The Greenlight Family Reintegration Program. Project Greenlight planners included programming for participants with their families because of the immense role family was likely to play in the experience of reentry—a role that could be very supportive, but could also be a source of stress. The program focused both on exploring ways that family members could support the person coming home and on helping them anticipate and, if possible, resolve problems that might otherwise surface after they were together in the community.

At orientation a family counselor described the program and invited the men to meet with him if they thought they would like to participate with their families. Of the 349 Greenlight participants, 105 met at least once with the family counselor. Most agreed to invite their family members or asked the family counselor to invite family members, which he did either by telephone or home visit. Fifty prison-

ers and their families attended family reintegration sessions. Although Greenlight participants ranged in age from late teens to early 60s, those in family sessions tended to be in their 20s and 30s. Most were African-American and Latino; most family members were women.

Greenlight offered three types of sessions: a couples group focused on the prisoner's relationship with his significant other; a co-parents group focused on the prisoner's relationship with his children; and a group called "family of origin" focused on the prisoner's relationship with his parents, siblings, and any extended and informal family. The latter could include anyone close to the inmate who he anticipated would play a supportive role in his reintegration.¹⁰ Each type of session was held once a week for four successive weeks.

Sessions were held during the evening in the first-floor cafeteria at Queensboro. One full-time and one part-time staff person, who had received training in family systems and family counseling, led the sessions for up to five prisoners and their families.¹¹

After the pilot period, DOCS and Parole institutionalized most of the elements of Greenlight at Queensboro, but because they did not have staff trained in family counseling and willing to work in the evenings, the family reintegration sessions within the facility ended. Instead, the facility has engaged a nonprofit to invite returning prisoners and their families to participate in sessions in the community after release.¹²

We describe the Greenlight family program simply to illustrate one way of doing such work; every jurisdiction is unique. But during Greenlight's planning and pilot period, we experienced many of the choices and challenges involved in designing and implementing a reentry program that

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Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

August 2000, NCJ 182335

Incarcerated Parents and Their Children

By Christopher J. Mumola
BJS Policy Analyst

In 1999 State and Federal prisons held an estimated **721,500** parents of minor children. A majority of State (55%) and Federal (63%) prisoners reported having a child under the age of 78. **Forty-six** percent of the parents reported living with their children prior to admission. As a result, there were an estimated 336,300 U.S. households with minor children affected by the imprisonment of a resident parent.

Parents held in U.S. prisons had an estimated 7,498,800 minor children in 1999, an increase of over 500,000 since 1991. Of the Nation's 72 million minor children, 21% had a parent in State or Federal prison in 1999.

A majority of parents in State prison were violent offenders (44%) or drug traffickers (13%), and 77% had a prior conviction. Nearly 60% of parents in State prison reported using drugs in the month before **their offense**, and 25% reported a history of alcohol dependence. About 14% of parents reported a mental illness, and 70% did not have a high school diploma.

This report is the latest in a series based on the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities. Other BJS Special Reports in this series have addressed substance abuse and treatment, mental health, women and juvenile offenders, and inmates' military service.

Highlights

In 1999 an estimated 721,500 State and Federal prisoners were parents of 7,498,800 children under age 18

Minor children	Percent of prisoners, 1997	
	State	Federal
Any	55.4%	63.0%
1	23.8	24.0
2	15.8	18.5
3 or more	15.8	20.5
None	44.6%	37.0%
Estimated number of minor children, 1999	1,324,900	173,900

• Since 1991 the number of minor children with a parent in State or Federal prison rose by over 500,000; from 936,500 to 2,498,800 in 1999.

• The percentage of State and Federal prisoners with minor children (56%) changed little since 1991 (57%).

• 22% of all minor children with a parent in prison were under 5 years old.

Prior to admission, less than half of the parents in State prison reported living with their children — 44% of fathers, 64% of mothers

	Percent of State inmate parents, 1997	
	Male	Female
Lived with children prior to admission	43.6%	43%
Current caregiver*		
Child's other parent	89.6%	28.0%
Child's grandparent	13.3	52.9
Other relative	4.9	25.7
Foster home/agency	1.8	9.6
Friends/other	4.9	10.4

About 46% of parents in prison lived with their children prior to admission.

• About 90% of fathers in State prison reported that **one** of their children now lived with their mother: 28% of mothers said the father was the child's current caregiver.

• 10% of mothers and 2% of fathers in State prison reported a child now living in a foster home or agency.

Some prisoners had children in different homes.

Nearly 2 in 3 State prisoners reported at least monthly contact with their children by phone, mail, or personal visits

Type of contact	Percent of state inmate parents reporting monthly contact with their children, 1997	
	Male	Female
Any	62.9%	78.4%
Phone	42.0%	53.6%
Mail	49.9	65.5
Visits	21.0	23.8

• 40% of fathers and 60% of mothers in State prison reported **weekly contact with their children**.

• A majority of both fathers (57%) and mothers (54%) in State prison reported never having a personal visit with their children since admission.

• Over 60% of parents in State prison reported being held over 100 miles from their last place of residence.

